

Fairgo
AL-V-1-A-140

In 1924 a large tract of land along the Potomac River was transformed into a beautiful fairground beneath the towering cliffs of Knobley Mountain. Seven stables, sixteen open-air barns, two exhibit halls and a caretakers residence were built on the fairgrounds. A large grandstand, a clubhouse, a jockey house, a pavillion at the finish line, and a paddock were erected around the half-mile oval track. Races were run at the track until September 1961. The annual county fair is still held at Fairgo.

Most of the frame buildings are in good condition. One of the more interesting structures is the main entrance, a small building flanked by two, three stage towers with peaked bellcast hip roofs. Many of the barns and stables have been removed.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fairgo

AND/OR COMMON

Cumberland Fairgrounds

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Moss Avenue, Potomac Park

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Cumberland Fair Association, Inc.

Telephone #: 777-0911

STREET & NUMBER

27 Pershing Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21502**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 145

Folio #: 522

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE
Maryland 21502**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-1-1-190

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cumberland Fairgrounds are located in Potomac Park between the B and O Railroad and the Potomac River.

The main entrance to the fairgrounds is a gatehouse with wooden towers on either side. The one story, seven bays wide gatehouse is frame with german siding resting on a low cement foundation. The hipped gable flank roof, with eaves consisting of a fascia and rafter ends, has an octagonal copula with a peaked roof. Entrances and casement windows are pedimented. The main entrance in the center of the western facade is recessed with a columned gabled portico. Picket fences connect the identical towers to the gatehouse. The square three stage wooden towers are frame with german siding. Entrances have simple hoods and windows are pedimented. Semicircular openings on the third stage are boarded up. Capped pilasters in pairs are located in the corners of the third stage. Eaves consist of rafter ends. Peaked bellcast roofs with finials are covered with asphalt shingles.

A smaller entrance on the northern side of the fairgrounds consists of two square frame ticket booths which share a common hipped gable roof serving as an entrance.

The clubhouse consists of a rectangular, two story, six bays wide frame structure with german siding resting on a low cement foundation. The gabled roof has been flatened. Eaves consist of rafter ends on the flanks and cornice and soffit on the ends. Movable panels on the northeast open the interior to a shed roofed porch on trackside. Pedimented six over six light sash windows have wooden lugsills.

Most of the paddock has been removed. What remains is a small rectangular frame structure with a shed roof and a row of betting windows on the northeast. A large pavillion has been added to the northeast.

The grandstand is a long rectangular frame structure with german siding. The gabled roof is supported by bracketed wooden posts. Box seats are located in the center of the stands. A press box on the roof of the grandstand was added in the late 1930's.

(cont.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

AL-VI-A-140

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1923-1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cumberland Fair and Agricultural Association was incorporated in 1908 "for the purpose of improving the breeds of all animals and promoting agriculture and for holding Races and County Fairs." (1) Fairs and races were held at the "old fairgrounds" in South Cumberland until 1924 when the new fairgrounds at Potomac Park, known as Fairgo, were opened. (2) A large tract of land along the Potomac River was transformed into a beautiful fairground beneath the towering cliffs of Knobley Mountain. Seven stables, sixteen open-air barns, two exhibit halls, and a caretaker's residence were built on the fairgrounds. A large grandstand, a clubhouse, a jockey house, a pavillion at the finish line, and a paddock were erected around the half-mile oval-track. Other sports provided for were skeet shooting and tennis courts. (3)

The clubhouse was a popular gathering place for the wealthy. It contained a dining room, betting windows, and a barroom on the second floor. Panels of the trackside wall of the barroom opened onto the awning covered porch so the races could be viewed from inside. (4) Races were restricted to a two week meet held "in conjunction with the Cumberland Fair." (5) The limited schedule eventually caused the discontinuance of the races:

... small race tracks were dying throughtout the United States by the 1950's, and Fairgo proved no exception. In September 1961, a county tradition ended when the last races were run at the local track. Cumberland's racing dates were sold the next summer to other tracks when it became apparent that few horse owners wanted to make the long trek to Fairgo for a short meet.(6)

(cont.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stegmaier, Harry Jr. et al Allegany County- A History Parsons W Va. McClain
Printing Co, 1976
Allegany County Certificate of Incorporation

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 96 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites

DATE

January 2, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

3 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

A variety of exhibition halls, barns, and stables are located throughout the fairgrounds. One remaining stable for racing horses is a long rectangular structure of vertical planks with a gabled roof. The roof is extended on the northwest and supported by wooden posts. Two exhibition halls are rectangular frame buildings with german siding. Low hipped roofs have one story monitors with hipped gable roofs. Windows are six light casements. Double entrances have shed roofed porches. Five livestock barns are open pavillions with gabled roofs supported by bracketed posts.

The Groundskeeper's Residence consists of a one and one-half story, seven bays wide, "T" shaped frame structure with german siding. It rests on a high cement block foundation with a plain water table. The steep hipped gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Eaves consist of a cornice, soffit, and frieze. Wall features include cornerboards. A brick chimney in the center of the building has a corbeled cap.

The pedimented main entrance, in the center of the northeastern facade, includes a two panel, four light door with original hardware. Two other pedimented entrances on the ends of the northeastern facade, are located on the recessed umbrage porch. Windows are nailed, pedimented six over one lights with wooden lugsills. Four pedimented windows on the first floor are wide eight over one lights with wooden lugsills. A porch on the northeast is umbrage on the southeast and northwest and has a hipped roof supported by square wooden posts. A shed roofed porch is on the southwest.

(Significance cont.)

The annual county fair held at Fairgo since 1924 includes livestock competitions and various exhibits. Sideshows, rides, and games housed in tents line the midway late in the summer.

Most of the frame buildings at the fairgrounds are in good condition. One of the more interesting structures is the main entrance, a small building flanked by two, three stage towers with peaked bellcast hip roofs. Many of the barns and stables have been removed.

- (1) Allegany County Certificate of Incorporation Liber 5, Folio 67
- (2) Harry I. Stegmaier, Jr. et al. Allegany County, A History (Parsons W.Va. McClain Printing Co.) p. 342
- (3) Interview with Mrs. Margaret McKenzie, Fairgo, 10-3-78
- (4) Ibid
- (5) Stegmaier et al. p. 342 and P426
- (6) Ibid, p. 426

INVENTORY NO: 503DATE: 10/3

AL-VI-A-140

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Cumberland fairgroundsLOCATION OF PROPERTY: EntranceDIRECTION DWELLING FACES: 320° NWNAME OF OWNER: Bill or PaulADDRESS: #6 McKenzie27 Pershing St Cumb

STORIES: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: consists of two towers & entrance bldg.DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) + sq. towers

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- german siding
- (☒) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
 () BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
 () STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
 () LOG
 () OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone CementWATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded BrickWINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()
 pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment(☒)ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: recessed center NW wide w/ 3 panels boarded up
 HARDWARE: original() replaced()
 FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN SE3 panel 3 light door
 Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal BoardsCORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
 original() replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architraveROOF: Gable front, Hipped, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, asphalt; original() replaced()PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable(☒) portico Lintel ped, Bed, soffit, fasciaCHIMNEYS: Number: 2 Brick() Stone() Corbeled() original() replaced()
 Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE:

SIGNIFICANCE:

DATE CONSTRUCTED: At least 55 yrs old

CONDITION:

Towers identical ger siding - on
 wooden posts - cornerboards - entrances
 on NW w/ simple shed hood
 grandstand over low cement found

Octagonal tower oct rect w/ bed & needle

on tower - 3 panel 6 light door

1st Floor³ 6 light casement windows

2nd 4 windows no glass

cornice w/ ped led to 3rd floor

3rd - 4 ~~sem~~ loaf shaped semi elliptical arched openings

on corners are doubled capped pilasters

Bell cast pyramidal roof w/ asphalt shingles
& finial. rafter ends exposed

flg holders on corners.

AL-VI-A-140

INVENTORY NO: _____

DATE: 10/5

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

AL-VI-A-140

NAME OF PROPERTY: Fairgroundskeeper's house

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: _____

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: NE 40°

NAME OF OWNER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STORIES: 1 1/2 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

1st Floor NE 3/4 pedimented w/

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

wood lvs also 3 6/1

WALL CONSTRUCTION: German siding

2 entrances on sides of main

- (☒) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type clap)
(☒) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
() STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
() LOG
() OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: cornerboards Belt Course, Pilasters, Others etc

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone Cement block

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1 () 2/2 () 6/6 () 9/6 () 9/9 () other () except front
pegged () nailed (☒) wide (☒) narrow () mitred () pediment (☒)

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center NE pedimented w/ lights 2 panels
HARDWARE: original (☒) replaced ()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) near shed porch
original (☒) replaced () rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, HIPPED Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original () replaced ()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed (☒) hip () gable () umbrella - plain balusters

CHIMNEYS: Number: 1 Brick (☒) Stone () Corbeled (☒) original (☒) replaced ()
Location: Flush end () Inside end () Outside end () Central (☒) Interior ()

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE: _____

SIGNIFICANCE: _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: _____

Pix

grandstand press box added
picture late 30's

circus arrangement in field

tightrope - ^{gone} pavilion at start finish the
white gravel tennis courts

clubhouse is exhibition for VIP's or somebody
important

had awnings and box seats for on track side
of barns - stables were 4 of them - 3 removed
4 long barns - 2 long strings of stables

other barns to north all gone
exhibit halls all remain

to W of house is foundation of water tank
& filtration system - from Potomac River

Mrs. Parker's grandson the Parker

no Paddock left

used for viewing horses - only white fence left

INVENTORY NO: _____

DATE: _____

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

AL-VI-A-140

NAME OF PROPERTY: Clubhouse & Bams (on Back)

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: gru

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES East — trackside

NAME OF OWNER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STORIES: 1(2) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6(✓) 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: _____

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- German siding
- (✓) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
 - () BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
 - () STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
 - () LOG
 - () OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others _____

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone Cement

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6(✓) 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged() nailed(✓) wide(✓) narrow() mitred() pediment(✓)

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: on W double 6 lights 2 panel ea. dining
HARDWARE: original() replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN Betting & bar room
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

258
CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
original(✓) replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers # _____
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(✓) hip() gable() on E for viewing seats

CHIMNEYS: on W shed
Number: 1 Brick() Stone() Corbeled() original() replaced()
Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

CHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS: semicircular louvered ventilator on

USE: _____

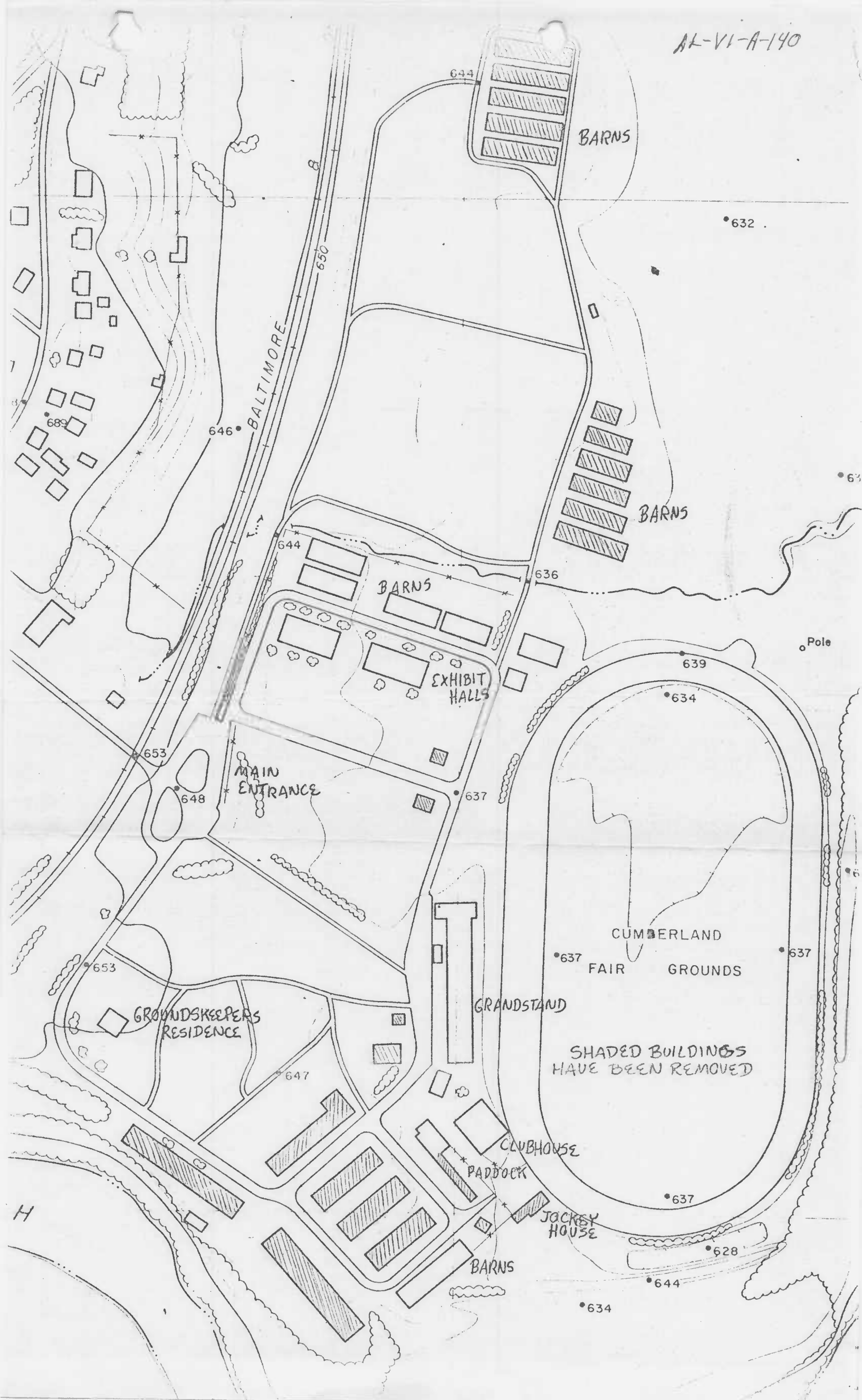
SIGNIFICANCE: _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: _____

Barns exhibits halls & ^{Back} entrance

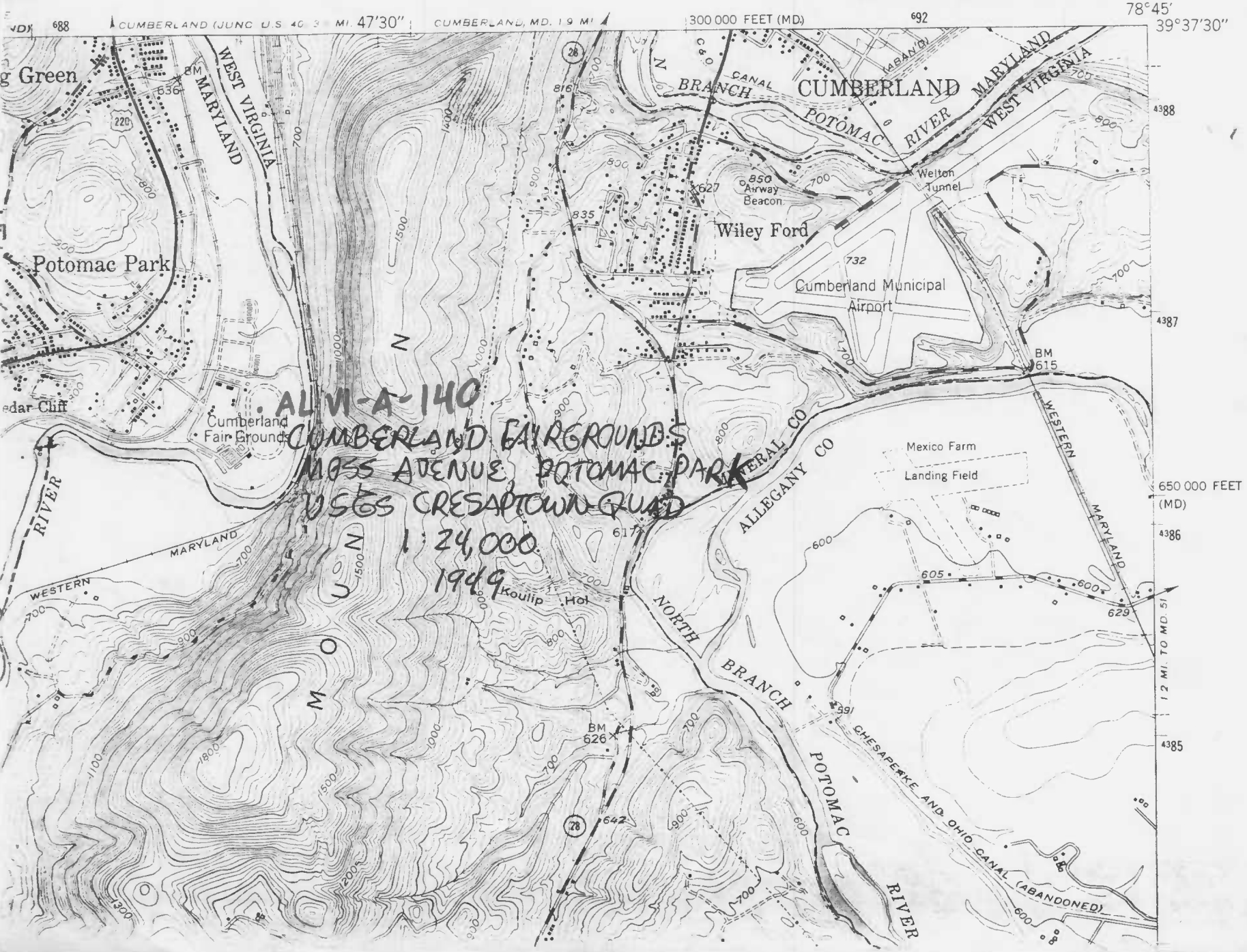
Double 6 light casements

low hip roofs w/ Monitors - ^{hipped} gabled roof



CRESAPTOWN QUADRANGLE
WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 FROSTBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

5263 II NV
(EVITTS CRE)





AL-VI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS

MAIN ENTRANCE

MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78

EAST



AL-VI-A-140
CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS

MASS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

GRAND STAND

photo of old photo taken

ca. 1925

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds
copy of old aerial photo taken to south
Moss Ave. Patomac Park ^{ca. 1925}

10/3/78

David A. Dorsey



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds

COPY OF OLD AERIAL PHOTO

To the east ca. 1925

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds
Paddock

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

9/24/79

Southeast



AZ-01-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS

MAIN ENTRANCE

MOSS AVENUE, POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DOSSOY

10 / 3 / 78

Southwest



AL-VI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
GRANDSTANDS
MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. Dorsey

10/3/78

EAST



A2-UI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
BARN

MOSS AVENUE, POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78

NORTHWEST



AZ-UI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
GRANDSTANDS
MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY
10/3/78

WEST



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds

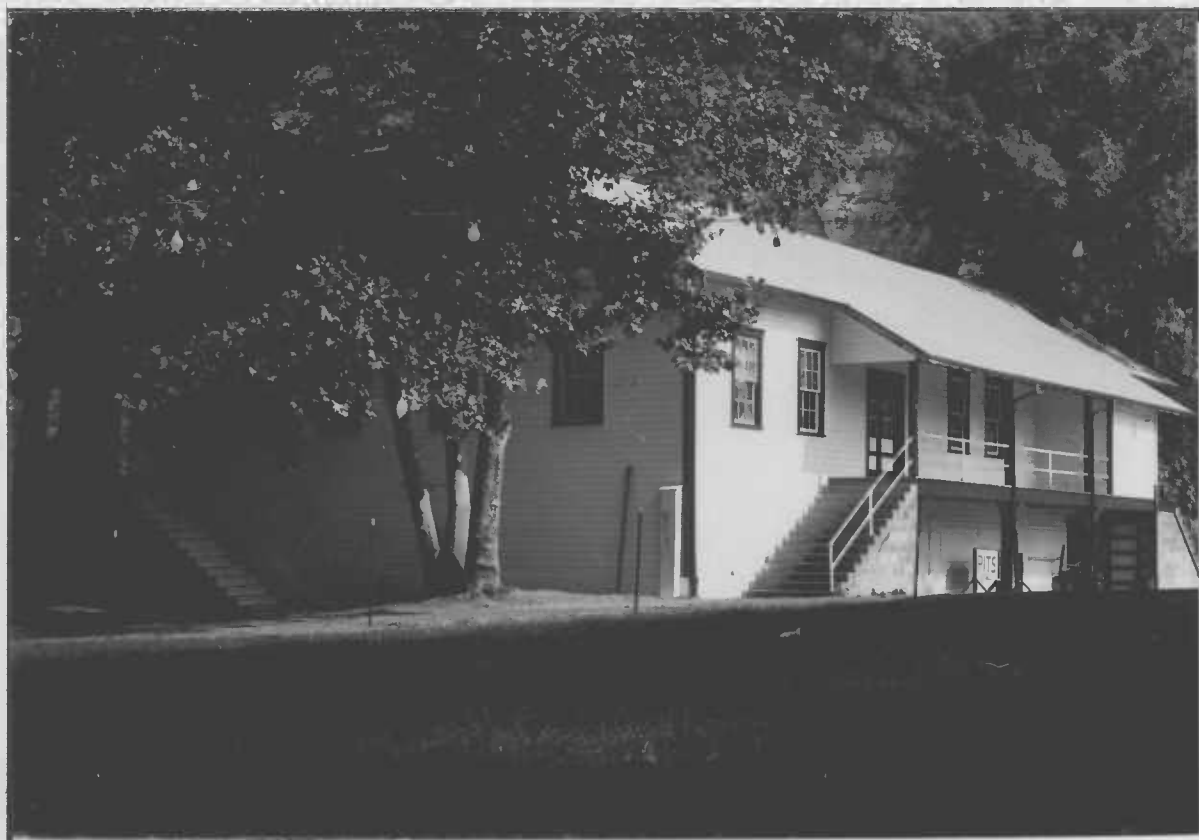
EXHIBIT HALLS

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78

~~WEST~~



AZ-VI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS

CLUBHOUSE

MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78

EAST



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds

CLUBHOUSE

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78

~~EAST~~ WEST



AL-VI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
GROUNDSKEEPERS HOUSE
MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK
DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78

SOUTH



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds

GRUNDS KEEPERS HOUSE

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78

NORTH



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds

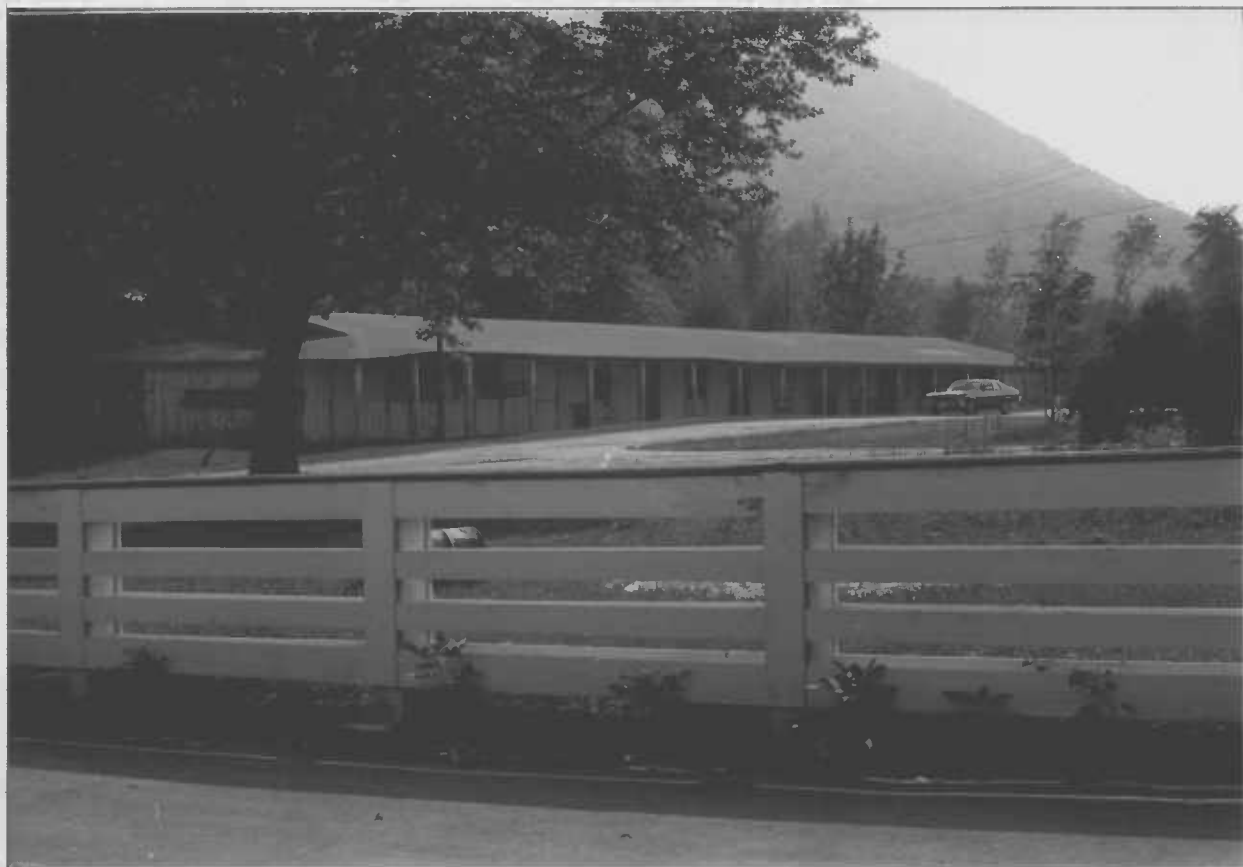
Exhibit Halls

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78

Northwest



AL-UI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
STABLES

MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A - DORSEY

10/3/78

Southeast



AZ. VI - A - 140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
N. ENTRANCE AND BARN
MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

Q/23/7Q

NORTH